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HB 761

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Statement for
House Committee on Water, Land Use, Development and Hawaiian Homes
Public Hearing
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by
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HB 761 proposes certain amendments of Subsec. 205-5A, Hawaii Revised Statutes. This statement on the bill is being submitted for review to the Legislative Subcommittee of the Environmental Center of the University of Hawaii but does not reflect an institutional position of the University.

Section 1 of HB 761 recognizes that "there have been numerous instances of clearly inappropriate uses approved in conservation districts.

Section 2 would amend HRS subsec 205(a), which provides the authority to regulate such uses to the Department of Land and Natural Resources so that certain uses would not be permissible:

- (1) Resorts, etc.
- (2) Military uses
- (3) Airstrips, etc.
- (4) Excavation and quarries
- (5) Grazers
- (6) Major agricultural operations

Although these uses may generally not be compatible with the conservation designation of lands, it does not follow that they should not be permitted anywhere within the conservation district.

The rationale for greater restriction of uses in the conservation district presented in Section 1 is valid, but the restriction proposed in Section 2 seems extreme.